

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2052

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3351

USCINCEUR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4833

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP,PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: SENATE VOTES ON TROOP LEVELS

REF: USNATO 4682

1. AT PERMREPS LUNCH OCTOBER 9, AS A FOLLOW-UP TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT OCTOBER 2 LUNCH I EXPLAINED MY PERSONAL VIEW OF RECENT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON OVERSEAS TROOP DEPLOYMENTS AND WHAT I BELIEVED THE AMENDMENTS REVEALED ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC ATTITUDES. I DESCRIBED THE HOUSE ACTION, NOTED THAT IN THE SENATE THE MANSFIELD AMENDMENT HAD BEEN DEFEATED, AND CONCLUDED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL PRESSURE, EVEN THE SENATE DID NOT SUPPORT A LARGE U.S. TROOP REDUCTION, AND CERTAINLY NOT IN EUROPE, THAT THE HUMPHREY-CRANSTON AMENDMENT INDICATED THE SENATE WANTED A SMALLER REDUCTION THAN CALLED FOR BY THE MANSFIELD AMENDMENT, AND THAT THE MATHIAS-KENNEDY AMENDMENT PUT ANY FORCE REDUCTIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RESULTS OF MBFR AND ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS.

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2. I SAID THAT THE VOTE ON JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT MEANT THAT THE SENATE OVERWHELMINGLY BELIEVED THE U.S. HAD A SERIOUS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM ON MILITARY ACCOUNT WHICH MUST BE SOLVED; THAT THE AMENDMENTS WOULD NOW GO TO A HOUSE-SENATE

CONFERENCE WHERE THEY WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE FURTHER MODIFIED SINCE THE HOUSE VERSION OF THE DEFENSE PROCUREMENT BILL CONTAINED NONE OF THE FOUR SENATE AMENDMENTS, AND THEN THE BILL WOULD GO TO THE PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE OR VETO.

3. I SAID THAT THE PRESS REPORTS OF THE SITUATION DID NOT GIVE THE PERSPECTIVE I HAD AND THAT IN MY VIEW THE DEGREE OF UNCERTAINTY BELGIAN PERMREP DE STAERCKE HAD RAISED LAST WEEK (REFTEL) WERE NOT VALID.

4. DE STAERCKE REPLIED THAT AFTER READING THE LETTERS I HAVE CIRCULATED TO COUNCIL MEMBERS ABOUT THE SENATE VOTES, AND AFTER HEARING THE ABOVE EXPLANATION, HE HAD DECIDED AGAINST RAISING THE QUESTIONS IN THE COUNCIL.

5. I UNDERLINED THAT I WAS NOT SAYING THERE WAS NO PROBLEM. THERE IS A PROBLEM IN THE U.S., BUT THE PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP IS CONTINUING TO EFFECTIVELY PREVENT UNILATERAL U.S. FORCE REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE, AND IN MY JUDGMENT, HIS EFFORT WILL CONTINUE TO BE EFFECTIVE, IF NATO AND POLITICAL LEADERS IN ALLIED CAPITALS RECOGNIZE THE ECONOMIC ASPECT (BURDEN SHARING) FOR WHAT IT IS, NAMELY, AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL PROBLEM THAT MUST BE DEALT WITH SOON.
RUMSFELD

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